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10/31/00 U.S. PTO

**NONPROVISIONAL PATENT
APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL RULE §1.53(b)
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Docket No. P100021-00030

Date: October 31, 2000

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) is a nonprovisional patent application:

For (Title): PROCESS FOR ADVANCED TREATMENT FOR DESULFURIZATION OF EXHAUST GAS WITH SEAWATER

By (Inventors): Kouji SHIRAIISHI; Takayoshi HARIMOTO; Toshiaki MATSUOKA; Naoki FUJIIHATA; Akihiko HONGYOU; Katsuo OIKAWA; Kazuo TAKEDA

- ☒ 13 pages of Specification is attached.
☒ Drawings (4 sheets) is attached.
☒ A Declaration and Power of Attorney is attached.
☒ An assignment of the invention to FUJIKASUI ENGINEERING CO., LTD. is attached, along with Form PTO-1595 and a check for \$40.00.
☒ The Applicant is a Small Entity.
☒ A certified copy of Japanese application(s) No.(s) 11-312466, dated November 2, 1999

The filing fee is calculated below and includes claim status after entry of any Preliminary Amendment noted above:

FOR:	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA
BASIC FEE		
TOTAL CLAIMS	2 - 20	= 0
INDEP CLAIMS	2 - 3	= 0
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS		

SMALL ENTITY			LARGE ENTITY		
RATE	FEE	OR	RATE	FEE	
	\$ 355	OR		\$ 710	
x 9 =	\$ 0	OR	x 18		
x 40 =	\$ 0	OR	x 80		
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TOTAL	\$ 355	OR	TOTAL		

- ☒ A Check No. 303840 in the amount of \$395.00 is attached. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Oram, Jr.
Registration No. 27,931

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PROCESS FOR ADVANCED TREATMENT FOR
DESULFURIZATION OF EXHAUST GAS WITH SEAWATER

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method of wet removal of an acidic component in an exhaust gas with seawater, in particular an acidic component exhausted from a boiler or various furnaces, and an acidic component from an exhaust gas containing sulfite gas.

2. Description of the Related Art

At present, for example, when heavy oil, coal, etc. are burned in combustion equipments such as a boiler or various types of furnaces and since the fuels contain a sulfur component, the sulfur component is combined with the oxygen in the air at the time of combustion to form sulfur oxides which end up included in the combustion exhaust gas. Such sulfur oxides travel with the gas from the source of generation to regions as much as several thousand kilometers away to cause phenomena such as acid rain or acid fog, polluting the air, water, soil, etc. over a vast region and having detrimental effects on human health.

However, along with the increased international interest in global environmental issues, global scale measures have been sought. In Japan, along with advances made in exhaust gas desulfurization or denitrogenation technologies etc., efficient boiler combustion technology has been accomplished. Substantially 100% antipollution measures are now taken at the source of generation. For example, as a method of wet removal of the acidic component such as the sulfur oxides contained in the gas, a packed column, spray column, bubble cap column, perforated or grid plate column without weir and downcomer etc. have been used to bring the gas to be treated and an alkali treatment solution countercurrently

into contact. That is, it can be said that the desulfurization treatment technology for environmental protection has reached the almost perfected stage. For example, a desulfurization efficiency of 90 to 99% has been obtained and commercialized. However, since calcium hydroxide, calcium carbonate, sodium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, etc. are used as the alkali treatment solution, there occur problem that, in addition to higher cost, the waste solutions have to be treated, the solid substances have to be treated, etc. Thus, there are problems of complication of the process and high construction and running costs. Therefore, as a method of treatment of exhaust gas using seawater, the present inventors developed a method of wet treatment of exhaust gas by using a perforated or grid plate column without weir and downcomer in JP-A-11-290643 (method of treatment of acidic component in an exhaust gas with seawater). Nevertheless, this method was insufficient in the low Ug region.

As explained above, even a process for removing an acidic component from an exhaust gas, developments of new technologies for simplification of the process, making the equipment more compact, and sharply reducing the construction and running costs are sought not only in the industrialized countries, but in the developing countries as well. In particular, a reliable process is sought for cases where advanced treatment of all regions, including the low Ug region, is frequently required.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, objects of the present invention are to develop new technologies capable of highly removing an acidic component such as a sulfate gas contained in an exhaust gas with a simplified process in a more compact equipment, and at a remarkably reduced the construction and running costs, in view of the international needs, at a wide region including a low Ug and low L/G region.

In accordance with the present invention, there is

provided a method for removing an acidic component contained in an exhaust gas comprising by using a system comprising (a) a gas-liquid contact apparatus composed of an absorption column provided internally with at least one perforated plate at the top, bottom, or both top and bottom of the absorption column packed with at least one type of fillers, (b) an apparatus for introducing seawater to the absorption column, (c) an apparatus for oxidizing the seawater after gas-liquid contact, and (d) an apparatus for mixing a noncontact seawater with the seawater after subjected to the mixing and oxidation, whereby the exhaust gas containing an acidic component is brought into gas-liquid contact with the seawater.

In accordance with the present invention, there is also provided a wet method for removing an acidic component contained in an exhaust gas, in a gas-liquid contact apparatus including an absorption column having a column diameter of at least 500 mm and provided with at least one perforated plate having an free-space ratio F_c of 0.25 to 0.5 and provided with at least one type of packing material with a packing height of 0.5 m to 4 m, comprising

supplying seawater in such an amount that a ratio L/G of the flow rate L ($\text{kg}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{hr}$) of the seawater to the flow rate G ($\text{kg}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{hr}$) of the gas to be treated from the top of the column is at least 3.6 and a flow rate L of the seawater is 1×10^4 to 25×10^4 $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{hr}$ and introducing a treated gas in such an amount that a range of a superficial gas velocity U_g in the apparatus from the bottom of the gas-liquid contact apparatus is 0 to $2 \cdot U_{gm}$ (m/sec):

in the case of using a perforated or grid plate column without weir and downcomer composed of at least one perforated plate and the ratio ρ_g/ρ_L of the density ρ_g (kg/m^3) of the treated gas to the density ρ_L (kg/m^3) of seawater of 1030 is at least 0.838×10^{-3} ,

$$U_{gm} = 49.14 Fc^{0.7} (\rho_g/\rho_L \times 10^{-3})^{-0.5} \cdot (L/G)^{-1/3} \cdot \sqrt{g \cdot L}$$

wherein L is a capillary constant $\sqrt{2\sigma/\rho_L \cdot g}$,

g is a gravitational acceleration (m/sec²), and

σ is a surface tension of seawater (kg/sec²)

whereby the gas to be treated and seawater are countercurrently brought into gas-liquid contact.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be better understood from the description set forth below with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing the relationship between the flow rate L of the treatment liquid and the superficial gas velocity Ug in the operating region according to the method of the present invention, wherein the regions A and B show the operating regions according to Japanese Examined Patent Publication (Kokoku) No. 51-31036 and Japanese Examined Patent Publication (Kokoku) No. 60-18206, while the region C shows the operating region according to JP-A-11-290643. The operating region in the present invention is the region of Ug of more than 0, but not more than 2 x Ugm, surrounded by the lines of the flow rate of more than 1 x 10⁴ (kg/m²·hr), L/G=3.6, and the flow rate 25 x 10⁴ (kg/m²·hr), of the treatment liquid of Fig. 1.

Fig. 2 is a view of the treatment system centered around the apparatus for removal of the acidic component in the exhaust gas with seawater, that is, a gas-liquid contact apparatus, according to the present invention.

Fig. 3 is an example of an absorption apparatus consisting of a combination of a perforated or grid plate without weir and downcomer and a packed column in the case of treating boiler exhaust gas by the method according to the present invention.

Fig. 4 is another example of an absorption apparatus consisting of a combination of a perforated or grid plate without weir and downcomer and a packed column in the

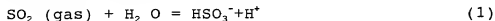
case of treating boiler exhaust gas by the method according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

According to the present invention, as shown in Fig. 2, since an absorption column composed of a combination of a perforated or grid plate without weir and downcomer and packing material is used, operation is possible from a small liquid/gas ratio to a large liquid/gas ratio, the alkali contained in the used cooling seawater or alkaline waste seawater used in power plants, factories, etc. can be utilized, and the desired acidic component can be removed, without using any chemicals at all, for the purpose of absorbing the gas and of adjusting pH of the absorbing liquid, in the entire process. Note that here the perforated or grid plate without weir and downcomer means a perforated or grid plate having a free-space ratio F_c of 0.25 to 0.5, preferably 0.3 to 0.4. In the present invention, by using a gas-liquid contact apparatus comprising a combination of at least one such perforated or grid plate and packing material with a packing height of at least 0.5 m, preferably 0.5 to 4 m, it is possible to use seawater or waste seawater to remove, in a wet manner, acidic components such as sulfite gas contained in an exhaust gas. Further, since the seawater after the gas-liquid contact makes the components absorbed into it harmless by the supply of air and oxidation by a seawater treatment system, there is no problem with pollution of the ocean at all.

The present invention is not limited in content to the following mechanism, but the chemical principle of the seawater desulfurization process according to the present invention is now explained, when the acidic component is sulfite gas (SO_2).

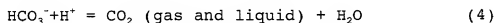
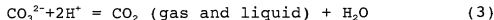
That is, the sulfite gas (SO_2) contained in the exhaust gas is absorbed in the seawater, and then converted to bisulfite ions as shown in formula (1):



The bisulfite ion thus formed is converted to a sulfate ion as shown in formula (2) by aeration oxidation:



The hydrogen ion thus produced by the reaction formula (2) is then reacted with a carbonate ion or bicarbonate ion contained in seawater and is thus neutralized as shown in the reaction formulae (3) and (4):



According to the present invention, the sulfite gas finally becomes a sulfate ion which is then dissolved into the seawater. The sulfur content in the ocean is said to be as high as 10^{15} tons. This corresponds to about 2300 mg/L of a sulfate ion. The concentration of the harmless sulfate ion contained in the finally treated seawater effluent from the present process only increases by about several mg/liter, and therefore the increase in the sulfur content in the ocean is extremely slight.

Some of the sulfur derived from the sulfur oxides produced due to the use of fossil fuels in modern day industry is naturally recycled by passing through the atmosphere and returning to the earth or the sea in the form of acid rain. As opposed to this, the method of removal of the acidic component in a gas in the present invention is an environmentally friendly technique. According to the process of the present invention, it is possible to recycle sulfur to the ocean in this way by a short cut and effectively prevent the damages such as acid rain, air pollution.

As explained above, the present invention successfully uses a gas-liquid contact apparatus equipped inside thereof with an absorption column containing at least one perforated plate and at least one type of packing materials with a packing height of at least 0.5 m, preferably 0.5 m to 4 m (e.g., Raschig rings, pole

rings, Terralets, interlock saddles, etc.) and introduces seawater from the top of the gas-liquid contact apparatus or introduces seawater from the top of the gas-liquid contact apparatus so as to cause countercurrent gas-liquid contact with the gas to be treated and to use the alkali in the seawater to effectively and advancely remove the sulfur oxides contained in the exhaust gas.

Note that the technology for treatment of an exhaust gas using a perforated plate or grid plate column without weir and downcomer (i.e. "Moretana" column) is disclosed in Japanese Examined Patent Publication (Kokoku) No. 51-31036 and Japanese Examined Patent Publication (Kokoku) No. 60-18208 (or U.S. Patent Nos. 3892837 and 3941572) but the present inventors found that the operating regions A and B (see Fig. 1) already shown there is not suited for the treatment of exhaust gas utilizing seawater. The above-mentioned JP-A-11-290643 proposed the need for the ratio L/G of the flow rate of gas G supplied to the column and the flow rate L of seawater to be at least 3.6, preferably 7 to 25, and for the superficial gas velocity U_g passing through the "Moretana" column and the flow rate L of the treatment liquid to be the relation in the region C of Fig. 1, that is, in the range from more than $3.43 L^{-0.0807} \cdot U_g$ (m/sec) to 8 (m/sec). However, the outside of this range, particularly when U_g is too low, there is the problem that the efficiency of gas-liquid contact drastically falls and it becomes impossible to remove the acidic component. However, according to the present invention, by utilizing an absorption apparatus composed of a combination of a "Moretana" column and a packing column, the desired gas-liquid absorption is effectively performed even in the region D of Fig. 1 and the highly efficient desulfurization treatment becomes possible.

Seawater contains approximately 110 to 130 mg/L, in terms of CaCO_3 , of alkali. The present invention makes highly effective use of seawater - which can be easily

obtained in large quantities in the area near the sea. According to the present invention, for example, in the case of a power station using seawater of the nearby ocean as cooling water, it is possible to reuse the seawater after the cooling, originally to be returned to the ocean, to treat the exhaust gas from a boiler and remove the sulfur oxides contained in the exhaust gas therefrom at a high desulfurization rate. Furthermore, according to the present invention even in the case of a factory producing magnesium hydroxide from seawater or a pulp and paper factory using seawater, it is possible to reutilize the waste seawater, which originally has to be retreated before discharge to the ocean, and to use the above gas-liquid apparatus to treat both the acidic exhaust gas and waste seawater.

According to the present invention, the sulfur-absorbed liquid is discharged into the ocean after the acidic sulfur-absorbed liquid containing bisulfite ion, which becomes a source of COD (i.e., chemical oxygen demand), is oxidized by air in the aeration oxidation vessel and after the pH of the mixing seawater is recovered by decarbonization, and therefore, it is possible to discharge the seawater into the ocean and recover the quality of the seawater without using any chemicals.

EXAMPLES

The present invention will now be further explained in detail by, but is by no means limited to, the following Examples.

Example 1

Figure 3 shows an example of a flow of the process, where boiler exhaust gas is treated by the method of the present invention.

Combustion exhaust gas containing about 1000 ppm of sulfur oxides exhausted from the boiler 1 is introduced into an electric dust collector 2 to remove the dust, then the exhaust gas is passed through a gas-liquid

contact apparatus 3 provided with one perforated plate having a free-space ratio F_c of 0.3 and a packed portion having 2 m of a packing material (i.e., a ring type, dimensions: 100 x 78 x 32 mmH) for treatment, then dispersed therefrom, as a gas effluent, into the atmosphere. Inside the gas-liquid contact apparatus 3, the exhaust gas is introduced from the bottom, while seawater pumped out from the sea is introduced from the top of the gas-liquid contact apparatus 3, whereby the seawater is countercurrently into contact with the exhaust gas in the apparatus 3 and absorb and remove the sulfur oxides contained in the exhaust gas. The acidic waste seawater containing the bisulfite ion discharged from the bottom of the apparatus, as a liquid effluent, is oxidized with air in the air oxidation vessel 4 to oxidize the sulfite ion and to decarbonize the gas effluent, whereby the pH of seawater is recovered and, then the seawater is discharged to the ocean. The removal rate was 90 to 99% with a liquid gas ratio L/G of 5 to 10, a U_g of 1 to 2 m/sec, and a concentration of sulfur oxides in the gas to be treated of 10 to 100 ppm.

Example 2

Figure 4 is another example of the method of treating boiler exhaust gas by the method of the present invention and shows a flowchart of an example in the case of treatment while maintaining a high desulfurization rate corresponding to the low duty operation of a boiler.

Combustion exhaust gas containing about 800 ppm of sulfur oxides exhausted from the boiler 1 is introduced into an electric dust collector 2 to remove the dust, then the exhaust gas is passed through a gas-liquid contact apparatus 3 provided with two perforated plates having a free-space ratio F_c of 0.3 and a packed portion having 1.5 m of a packing material (i.e., ring type, dimension: 100 x 78 x 32 mmH) for treatment, then discharged into the atmosphere. Inside the gas-liquid contact apparatus 3, the exhaust gas is introduced from

the bottom thereof, while the seawater pumped out from the sea is introduced from the top thereof, whereby the seawater is brought into countercurrent contact with the exhaust gas in the apparatus 3 and the sulfur oxides in the exhaust gas are absorbed and removed. The acidic waste seawater containing the bisulfite ion discharged from the bottom of the apparatus as a liquid effluent is oxidized and decarbonized by air in the air oxidation vessel 4, and the pH of seawater is recovered, then the seawater is discharged, as a liquid effluent, to the ocean. The removal efficiencies were 99.4%, 98.7%, 97.9%, 96.9%, and 92.5% with a flow rate of seawater L (5×10^4 kg/m²·hr)₂Ug of 0.25, 0.5, 1, 1.5, and 2 m/sec and a concentration of sulfur oxides in the gas to be treated of 5, 10, 17, 25, and 60 ppm.

As explained above, according to the present invention, it is possible to advance and effectively treat the sulfur oxides contained in an exhaust gas with seawater, despite the region being unable to be treated by "Moretana" column in the past, that is, a low Ug, and possible to protect the environment simply and with a compact equipment and low cost.

CLAIMS

1. A method for removing an acidic component contained in an exhaust gas comprising by using a system comprising (a) a gas-liquid contact apparatus composed of an absorption column provided internally with at least one perforated plate at the top, bottom, or both top and bottom of the absorption column packed with at least one type of fillers, (b) an apparatus for introducing seawater to the absorption column, (c) an apparatus for oxidizing the seawater after gas-liquid contact, and (d) an apparatus for mixing a noncontact seawater with the seawater after subjected to the mixing and oxidation, whereby the exhaust gas containing an acidic component is brought into gas-liquid contact with the seawater.

2. A wet method for removing an acidic component contained in an exhaust gas, in a gas-liquid contact apparatus including an absorption column having a column diameter of at least 500 mm and provided with at least one perforated plate having a free-space ratio F_c of 0.25 to 0.5 and provided with at least one type of packing material with a packing height of 0.5 m to 4 m, comprising

supplying seawater in such an amount that a ratio L/G of the flow rate L ($\text{kg/m}^2\cdot\text{hr}$) of the seawater to the flow rate G ($\text{kg/m}^2\cdot\text{hr}$) of the gas to be treated from the top of the column is at least 3.6 and a flow rate L of the seawater is 1×10^4 to 25×10^4 $\text{kg/m}^2\cdot\text{hr}$ and introducing a treated gas in such an amount that a range of a superficial gas velocity U_g in the apparatus from the bottom of the gas-liquid contact apparatus is 0 to $2 \cdot U_{gm}$ (m/sec):

in the case of using a perforated or grid plate column without weir and downcomer composed of at least one perforated plate and the ratio ρ_g/ρ_L of the density ρ_g (kg/m^3) of the treated gas to the density ρ_L (kg/m^3) of seawater of 1030 is at least 0.838×10^{-3} ,

$$U_{gm} = 49.14 \text{ Fc}^{0.7} (\rho_g/\rho_L \times 10^{-3})^{-0.5} (L/G)^{-1/3} \cdot \sqrt{g \cdot L}$$

wherein L is a capillary constant $\sqrt{2\sigma/\rho_L \cdot g}$,

g is a gravitational acceleration (m/sec²), and

σ is a surface tension of seawater (kg/sec²)

- 5 whereby the gas to be treated and seawater are
countercurrently brought into gas-liquid contact.

004501-2/56960

PROCESS FOR ADVANCED TREATMENT FOR
DESULFURIZATION OF EXHAUST GAS WITH SEAWATER

5

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A method for removing an acidic component contained
in an exhaust gas comprising by using a system comprising
(a) a gas-liquid contact apparatus composed of an
absorption column provided internally with at least one
perforated plate at the top, bottom, or both top and
bottom of the absorption column packed with at least one
15 type of fillers, (b) an apparatus for introducing
seawater to the absorption column, (c) an apparatus for
oxidizing the seawater after gas-liquid contact, and (d)
an apparatus for mixing a noncontact seawater with the
seawater after subjected to the mixing and oxidation,
20 whereby the exhaust gas containing an acidic component is
brought into gas-liquid contact with the seawater.

Fig.1

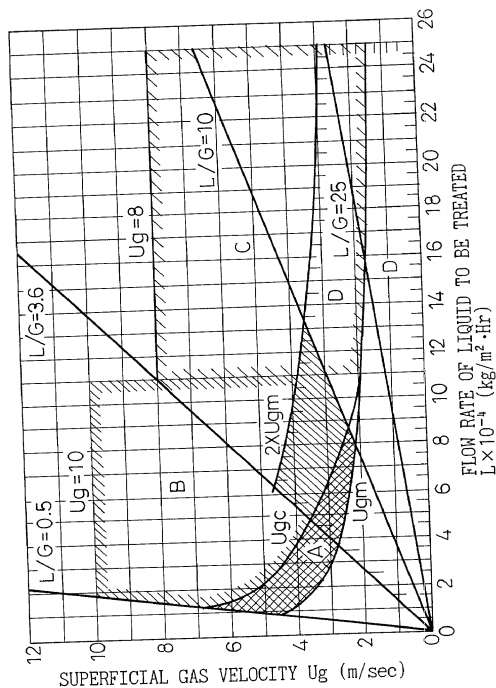


Fig.2

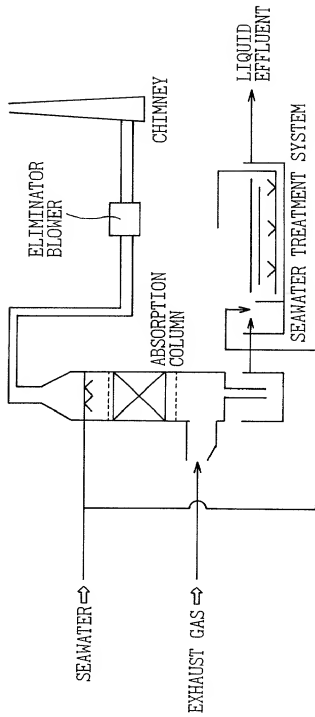


Fig.3

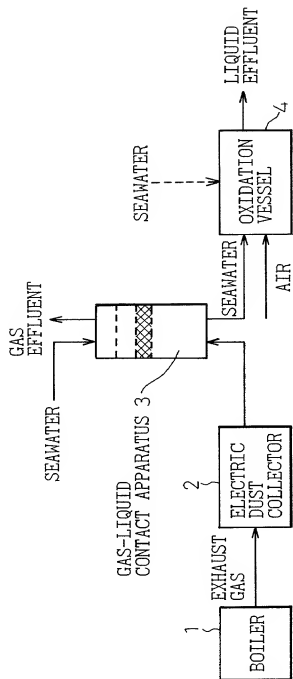
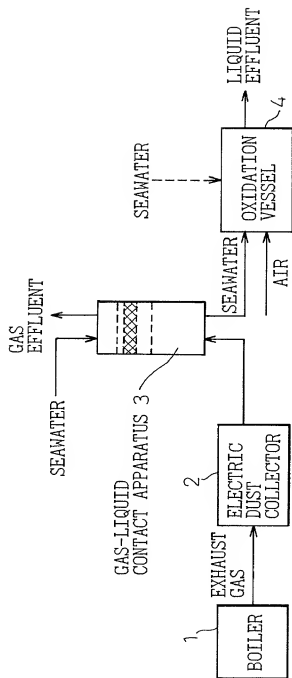


Fig.4



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Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

App. FJK-11078-JF

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者である（下記の名称が複数の場合）信じています。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PROCESS FOR ADVANCED TREATMENT FOR DESULFURIZATION OF EXHAUST GAS WITH SEAWATER

上記発明の明細書（下記の欄でX印がついていない場合は、本表に添付）は、

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

___月___日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約国際出願番号を___とし、
 （該当する場合）___に訂正されました。

☐ was filed on _____
 as United States Application Number or
 PCT International Application Number
 _____ and was amended on
 _____ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を改訂し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則第37編第1章第6項に定義されるとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

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Japanese Language Declaration (日本語宣言書)

私は、特許法第35条119条(a)-(d)項又は365条(b)項に基づき、外国以外の国の少なくとも一ヶ国を指定している特許権を第35条(a)項に基づき、外国出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明特許の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している、本出願の前に出願された特許または発明特許の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

Prior Foreign Application(s)
 外国での先行出願
 11-312466(Pat. Appln.) Japan

(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)
(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Not Claimed
 優先権を主張なし

2/November/1999
 (Day/Month/Year Filed)
 (出願年月日)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
 (出願年月日)

私は、第35条米法第119条(e)項に基づいて下記の米国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
-----------------------------	------------------------

私は、下記の米国法第35条120条に基づいて下記の米国特許出願に記載された権利、又は米法を指定している特許権を第35条(c)項に基づき、権利をここに主張します。また、本出願の特許請求事項の内容が米国法第35条112条第1項又は特許法第4条で規定された方法で先行する米国特許出願に開示されていない限り、その先行米国出願書提出日より本出願書の日本国内または特許協力条約国際提出日より最遅中に入手された、送達規則第37条1条56項で規定された特許料等の費用に関する重要な情報について開示義務があることを認識しています。

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
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(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
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(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Japanese Language Declaration

(日本語宣言書)

委任状: 私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の
 手続を特許庁長官に対して進行する本発明または代理人
 として、下記の者を指名いたします。(弁護士、または代
 理人の氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint
 the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this
 application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark
 Office connected therewith (list name and registration number)

書頭送付元

And I hereby appoint as principal attorneys: David T. Nikaido, Reg. No. 22,663;
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第一または第一発明者名

Full name of sole or first inventor

Kouji Shiraishi

発明者の署名

日付

Inventor's signature

白石能二

Date

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住所

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第二共同発明者名

Full name of second joint inventor, if any

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第二共同発明者の署名

日付

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(第三以降の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をす
 ること)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent
 joint inventors.)

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第三共同発明者の署名	日付	Third inventor's signature	Date 松岡俊昭 October 12, 2000
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第四共同発明者名	Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any	Naoki Fujihata	
第四共同発明者の署名	日付	Fourth inventor's signature	Date 藤畑直樹 October 12, 2000
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第五共同発明者名	Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any	Akihiko Hongyou	
第五共同発明者の署名	日付	Fifth inventor's signature	Date 本行昭彦 October 12, 2000
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第六共同発明者名	Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any	Katsuo Oikawa	
第六共同発明者の署名	日付	Sixth inventor's signature	Date 奥川克夫 October 12, 2000
住所	Residence	Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan	
国籍	Citizenship	Japanese	
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第七共同発明者名	Full name of seventh joint inventor, if any		
第七共同発明者の署名	日付	Signature	Date
		Kazuo Takeda	October 12, 2000
住所	Residence		
	Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan		
国籍	Citizenship		
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私書箱	Post Office Address		
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第八共同発明者名	Full name of eighth joint inventor, if any		
第八共同発明者の署名	日付	Signature	Date
住所	Residence		
国籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		
第九共同発明者名	Full name of ninth joint inventor, if any		
第九共同発明者の署名	日付	Signature	Date
住所	Residence		
国籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		
第十共同発明者名	Full name of tenth joint inventor, if any		
第十共同発明者の署名	日付	Signature	Date
住所	Residence		
国籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		